

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2018

INFO AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4252

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, UN, PP

SUBJECT: U.S. VISIT OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA PRIME MINISTER SOMARE

1. I WAS DISAPPOINTED TO SEE THE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST CABLE WHICH DOUBTS THAT EITHER THE SECRETARY OR THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO SEE PRIME MINISTER SOMARE.

2. THE REPORTING FROM PORT MORESBY ABOUT SOMARE AND HIS NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATION BEARES OUT OUR EVALUATION HERE AT USUN. BECAUSE OF U.S. TRUSTEESHIP RESPONSIBILITIES, THIS MISSION HAS HAD A GOOD DEAL OF CONTACT WITH APPUA-NEW GUINEAN LEADERS IN RECENT YEARS. THEY ARE DEDICATED MEN WHO SEEM TO BE GOING ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF NATIONHOOD IN A PRAGMATIC, CONSTRUCTIVE WAY. THEY TAKE SERIOUSLY THE DEMOCRATIC INSTI-TUTIONS WHICH AUSTRALIA BEQUEATHED TO THEM, AND ARE CONSIDER-ABLY MORE FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES THAN MOST OTHER NEW NATIONS TO PUT IT MIDLY. WE EXPECT TO COUNT THEM AMONG THE MODERATES AMONG THE G-77 HERE AT THE UN, AND MIGHT EVEN PICK UP A CRITICAL VOTE NOW AND THEN.

3. THIS IS A NEW NATION, ATTRACTED TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. A FEW MINUTES OF TIME FROM OUR TOP LEVEL IN THIS SYMBOLIC MOMENT COULD MATTER. I HOPE THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THIS NEW HEAD OF STATE.

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